



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20202

MAY 10 2011

Dear State Directors for Career and Technical Education:

The Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), Division of Academic and Technical Education (DATE), is pleased to invite your state to participate in the second web-based, "Virtual" Data Quality Institute (VDQI). This event will be held June 7-8, 2011.

The theme of this institute will be "***Link, Ensure, Build: Incorporating Career and Technical Education (CTE) Data into State Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS)***". Sessions will focus on helping states to: ***link*** data for CTE students across secondary and postsecondary programs; ***ensure*** data can be accessed, analyzed and used; and ***build*** the capacity of stakeholders to use data for decision making.

This second VDQI will follow the well-received format of the first VDQI in October 2008. It will feature video presentations by Federal staff and accountability experts, interactive webinars featuring promising state practices, and state team planning time. At this VDQI, we will introduce a new "modular" approach, where pre-institute modules will be posted to the Perkins Collaborative Resource Network (PCRN) at <http://cte.ed.gov> for participants to review and prepare before the live sessions. Participants will have the opportunity to submit questions to our office that will be answered during the event. Session content will be provided via web-based platforms (i.e., webcast and webinars), with an audio component accessible via teleconference.

In anticipation of this event, please identify appropriate state policy, program, and accountability staff—drawn from secondary and postsecondary sectors—to participate. You also will need to reserve computing equipment and conferencing space on June 7 (day one) between 11:30 am – 4:45 pm EDT and June 8 (day two) between 9:00 am – 3:30 pm EDT. Our contractors at MPR Associates, Inc. and KAI Associates will send you an e-mail next week with information on registration and technical details for accessing the live sessions. Detailed VDQI information and materials will be posted on PCRN as they become available.

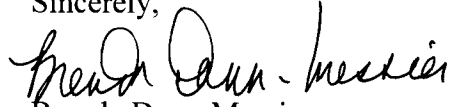
State travel restrictions, Federal and state resource constraints, and high transportation costs require the use of new, cost-effective modes of delivering technical support. It is anticipated that

www.ed.gov

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

the VDQI will increase the number of individuals who are able to benefit from expert presentations and participate in state planning activities. Thank you in advance for your support as we once again plan for this “virtual” approach to delivering technical assistance to states.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brenda Dann-Messier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brenda" being more prominent and the last name "Dann-Messier" following in a similar style.

Brenda Dann-Messier

Assistant Secretary

Office of Vocational and Adult Education